

# CHAPTER 1

## OVERVIEW AND GOALS OF DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY'S ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PLAN

This Department of the Navy (DON) Environmental Restoration Plan documents clean up of past hazardous waste sites and projects cleanup goals at DON installations over the next five years. DON installations include both Navy and Marine Corps facilities within the United States and its territories. This plan covers the clean up of contaminated sites which are the result of past spills and releases of hazardous substances. The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA) and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, as amended (RCRA) are the primary laws which govern the Environmental Restoration Program. The goal of the DON's Environmental Restoration Program is to clean up past spill and disposal sites in order to protect human health and the environment.

With the passage of SARA, Congress established the Defense Environmental Restoration Account (DERA) to address the investigation and clean up of past hazardous waste sites at active bases. In the FY-97 DoD Appropriations and Authorization Acts, Congress devolved the former DERA account directly to each Service. In FY-97 the former DERA type funding will be designated Environmental Restoration, Navy (ER, N).

This Plan covers the investigation and clean up of sites that qualify for ER, N funding. It also includes investigation and cleanup activity at closing installations as a result of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) legislation. This Plan does not address clean up of oil spills and other similar actions which are the result of current operations at DON installations since ER, N funding is not intended to be used for such cleanups.

The DON has been delegated responsibility to carry out the restoration goals prescribed by Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Environmental Security) on property it manages. The DON's environmental restoration efforts to assess, characterize, and clean up or control past contamination is centrally managed and consists of three separate areas: CERCLA Installation Restoration, RCRA Corrective Actions, and RCRA Underground Storage Tank (UST) Cleanups. These regulatory regimes apply to both active and BRAC installations.

This Plan provides the current status and projects expected progress in achieving necessary cleanups over the next five years. It also identifies future resources needed to complete all cleanup actions. DON revises this Plan annually to reflect progress and changes that have occurred in the planned actions at each installation. The data used in this edition reflects the status of the cleanup program at installations as of 30 September 1996.

## GOALS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM

1. Ensure full environmental compliance with Federal, state and local requirements pertaining to the cleanup of contamination from past hazardous waste disposal practices.
2. Reduce risk by taking immediate action to eliminate human exposure to contamination and remove or contain contamination that poses imminent threats.
3. Score individual sites on installations using DoD's relative risk site evaluation model to identify, on a national basis, those sites that pose the greatest relative risk to human health and the environment.
4. Develop partnerships with EPA, state and local regulatory agencies, keeping them informed of cleanup activities and soliciting their comments and recommendations throughout the cleanup process.
5. Involve the local community in the Defense Environmental Restoration Program. Establish Restoration Advisory Boards (RABs) at all Navy facilities with an active Environmental Restoration Program and at Marine Corps installations where there is sufficient, sustained local interest. Form RABs at all BRAC installations. Encourage stakeholder participation by making information available in a timely manner, providing opportunities for public comment, and considering all comments in the decision making process.
6. Expedite the cleanup process and demonstrate a bias for action by:
  - Utilizing a risk management approach to site remediation as the basis for sites funding prioritization. This approach incorporates relative risk, economy of scale and regulator and community stakeholder concerns in the prioritization process. The DON has established a goal to earmark 70% of cleanup program funds for high relative risk projects.
  - Taking stabilization or containment measures, as necessary.
  - Taking interim action where appropriate.
7. Consider planned land use in developing cleanup strategies.
8. Ensure that actions necessary to protect human health and the environment are taken prior to property sale or other transfer in accordance with CERCLA, Section 120(h) as amended by the Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act of 1992 (P.L. 102-425) and DOD policy.